



ROCK & STONE

JEAN + VALEANI + GEORGES
V O L U M E 1 / 2

DEL COURT

**STARBLAZE
COMICS**





ROCK & STONE

V O L U M E 1 / 2

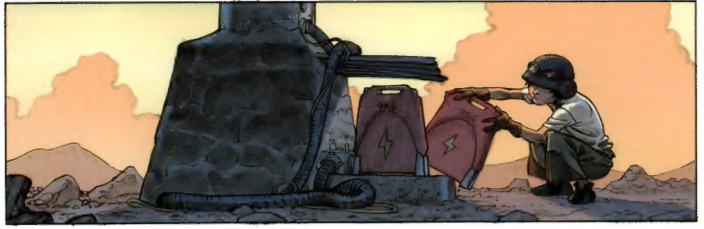
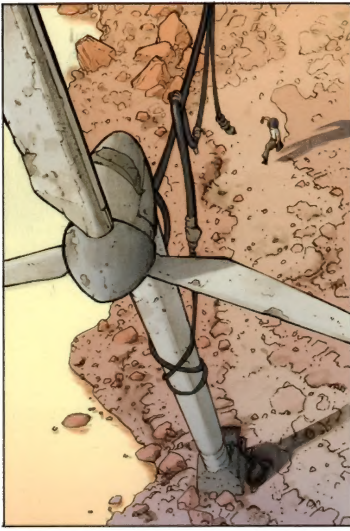
STORY
NICOLAS JEAN

DESIGN
YANN VALEANI

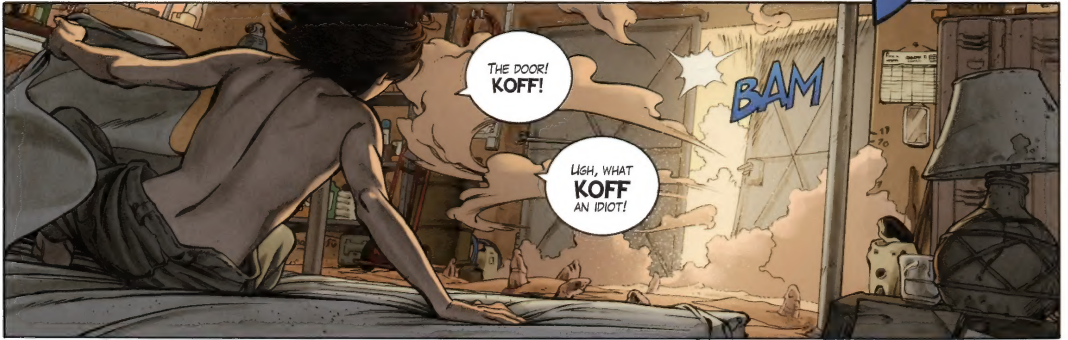
COLORS
GAÉTAN GEORGES

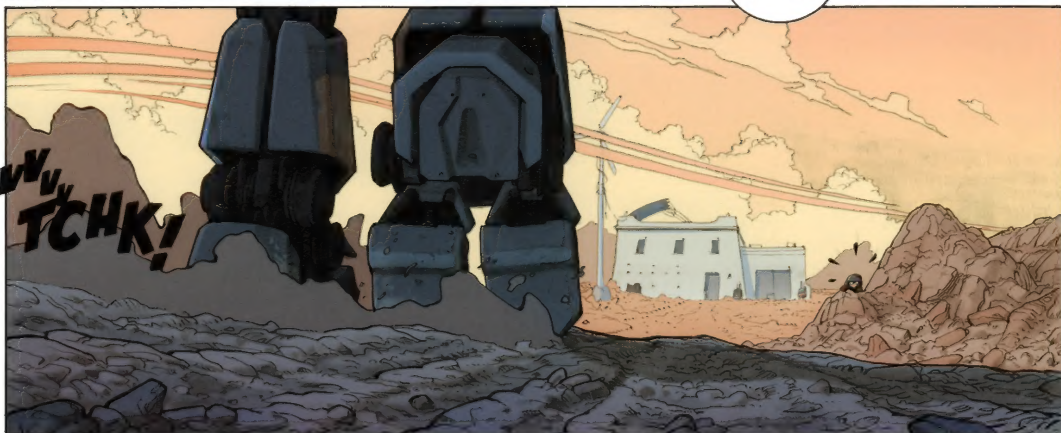
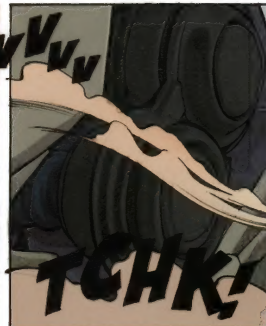
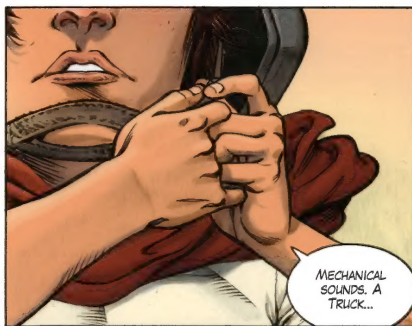


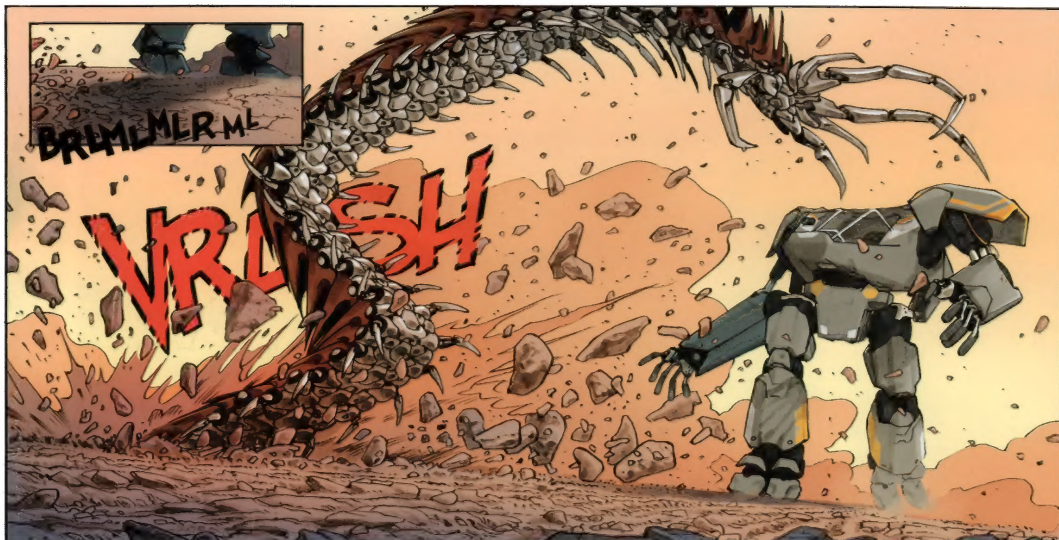
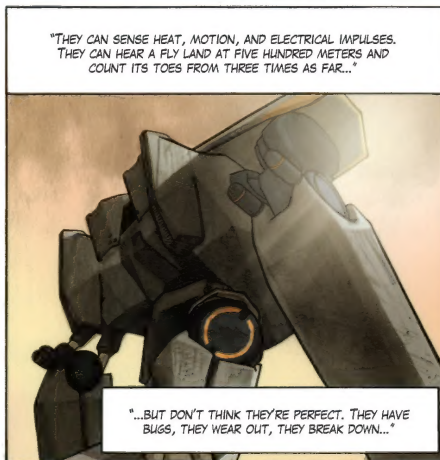
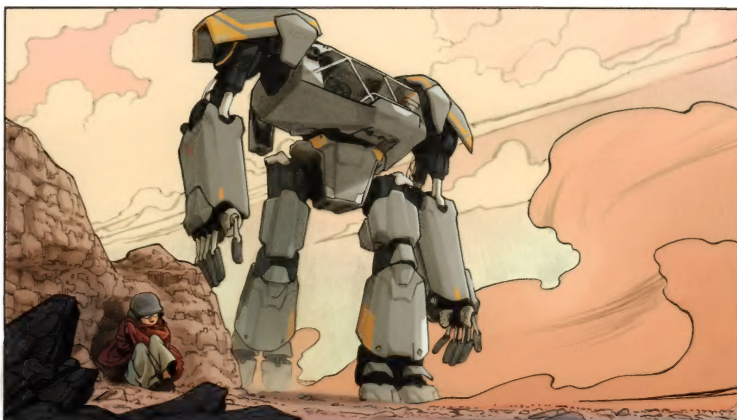


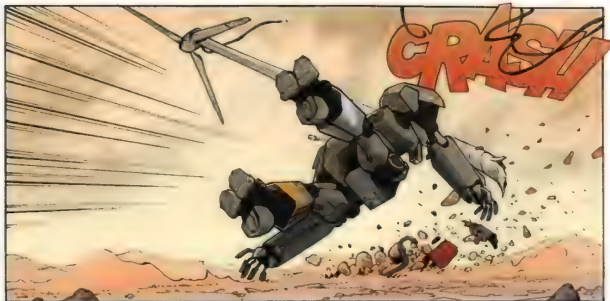






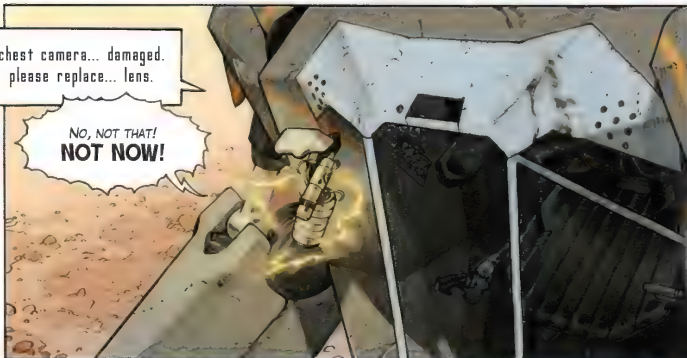


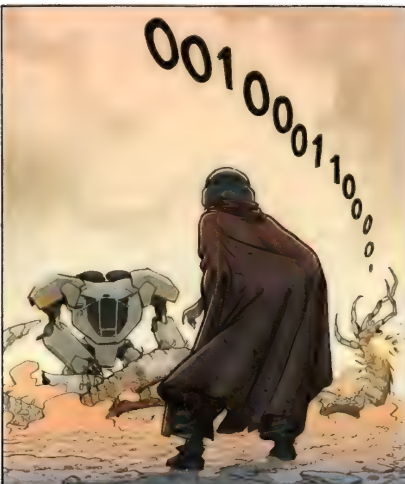
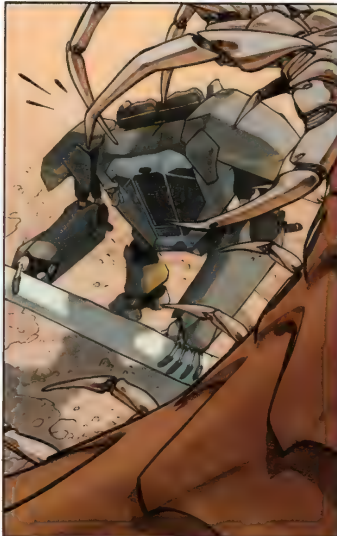
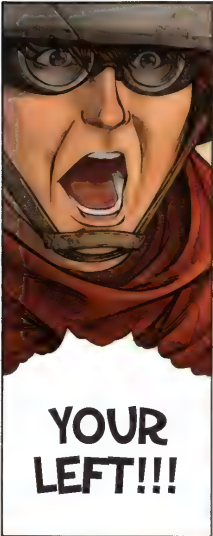
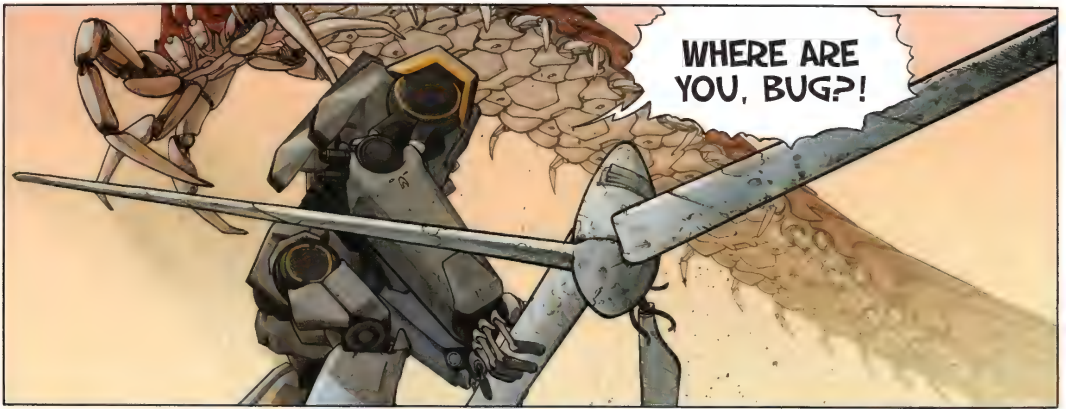


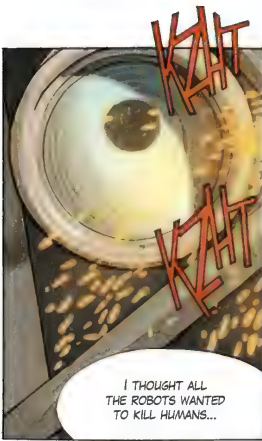


chest camera... damaged.
please replace... lens.

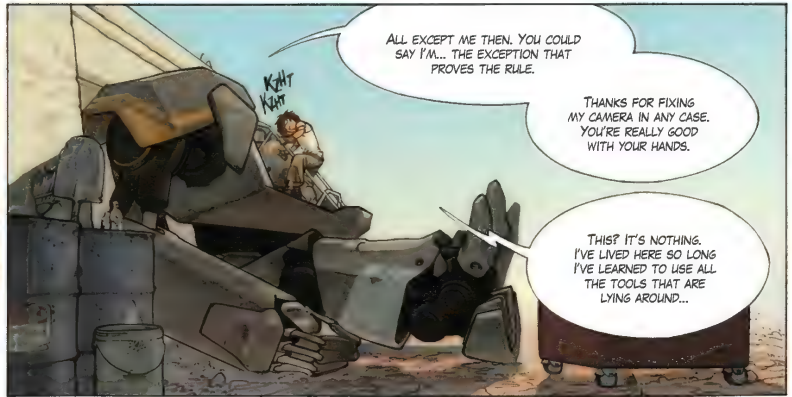
NO, NOT THAT!
NOT NOW!







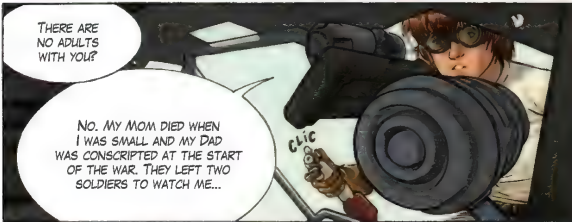
I THOUGHT ALL
THE ROBOTS WANTED
TO KILL HUMANS...



ALL EXCEPT ME THEN. YOU COULD
SAY I'M... THE EXCEPTION THAT
PROVES THE RULE.

THANKS FOR FIXING
MY CAMERA IN ANY CASE.
YOU'RE REALLY GOOD
WITH YOUR HANDS.

THIST? IT'S NOTHING.
I'VE LIVED HERE SO LONG
I'VE LEARNED TO USE ALL
THE TOOLS THAT ARE
LYING AROUND...

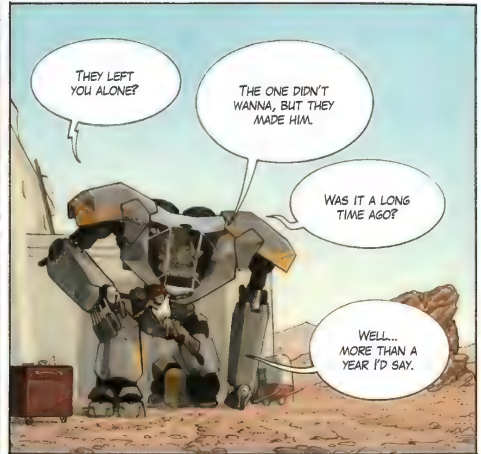


THERE ARE
NO ADULTS
WITH YOU?

NO. MY MOM DIED WHEN
I WAS SMALL AND MY DAD
WAS CONSCRIPTED AT THE START
OF THE WAR. THEY LEFT TWO
SOLDIERS TO WATCH ME...



THEN, OTHER SOLDIERS
CAME LOOKING FOR THEM,
AND THEY LEFT TOO.



THEY LEFT
YOU ALONE?

THE ONE DIDN'T
WANNA, BUT THEY
MADE HIM.

WAS IT A LONG
TIME AGO?

WELL...
MORE THAN A
YEAR I'D SAY.

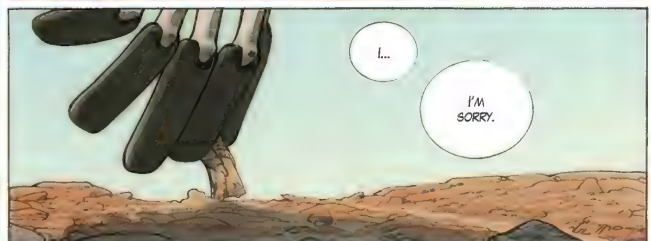


MORE THAN A
YEAR? MY GOD, THAT
CAN'T BE RIGHT...



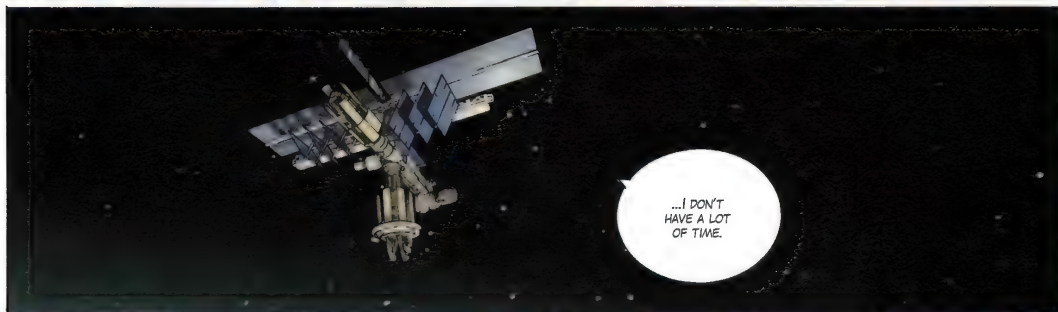
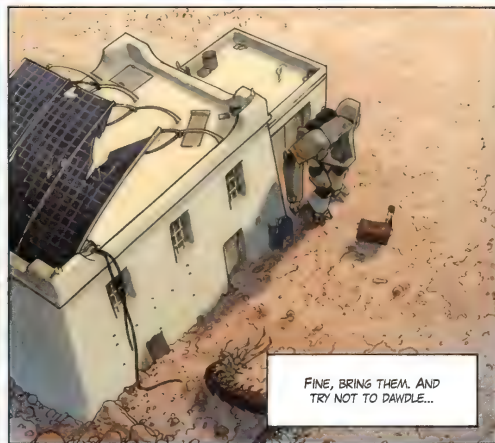
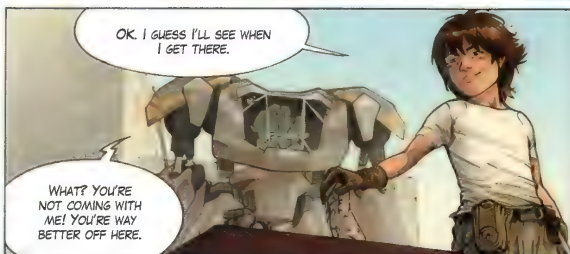
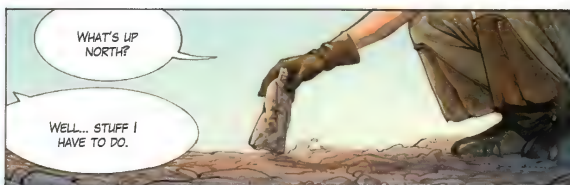
SWEET ACTION
FIGURES, HUH?

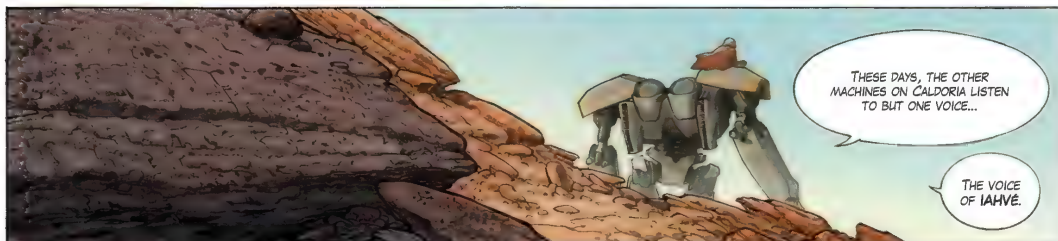
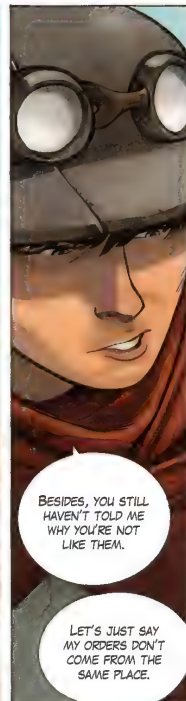
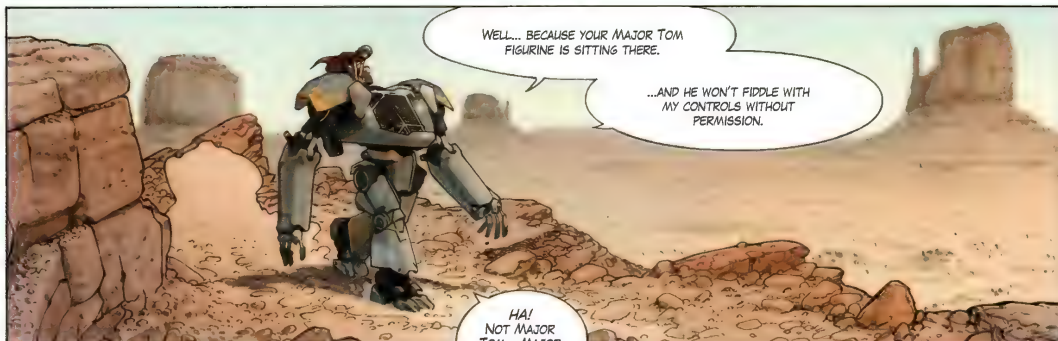
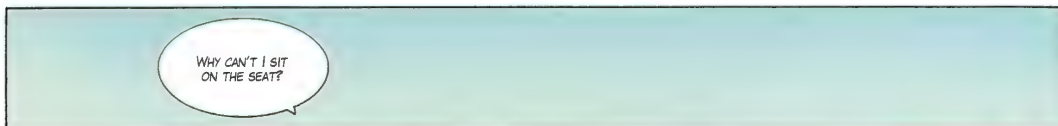
SO, OTHERWISE, WHAT ARE
YOU DOING HERE? ASIDE FROM
ATTRACTING GIANT CENTIPEDES
AND SCREWING UP MY WIND
TURBINE, I MEAN.

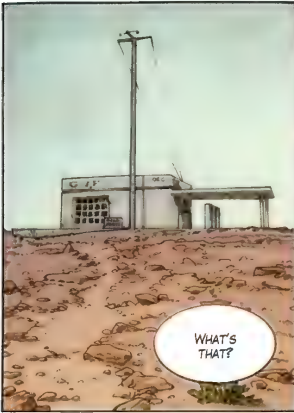


L...

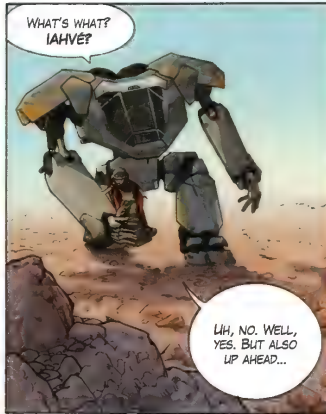
I'M
SORRY.





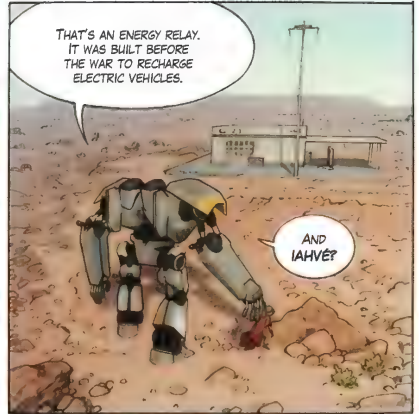


WHAT'S THAT?



WHAT'S WHAT?
IAHVÉ?

UH, NO. WELL,
YES. BUT ALSO
UP AHEAD...



THAT'S AN ENERGY RELAY.
IT WAS BUILT BEFORE
THE WAR TO RECHARGE
ELECTRIC VEHICLES.

AND
IAHVÉ?



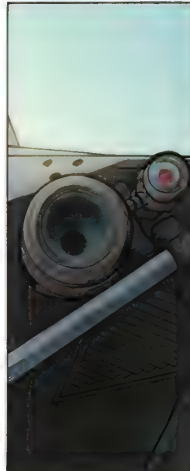
"INTELLIGENCE ARTIFICIELLE
HEURISTIQUE" THAT BECAME "VIRALE ET
ÉVOLUTIVE". A HUMAN CREATION CAPABLE
OF LEARNING FROM ITS MISTAKES THAT
ONE FINE DAY DECIDED THAT WE... THAT
YOU, WERE A THREAT.

NOW, ALL THE ROBOTS ON THE
PLANET OBEY IT. THEY USE THESE
SORTS OF RELAYS TO RECHARGE
THEIR BATTERIES.



STAY HERE. I'LL MAKE
SURE THERE'S NO
DANGER.

BUT... IF THERE
WAS A ROBOT OVER
THERE, WE'D SEE
IT, NO?



¹ Heuristic Artificial Intelligence.
² Viral and Evolving.

IT'S FUNNY THAT
THIS BIKE WAS JUST
LEFT HERE.



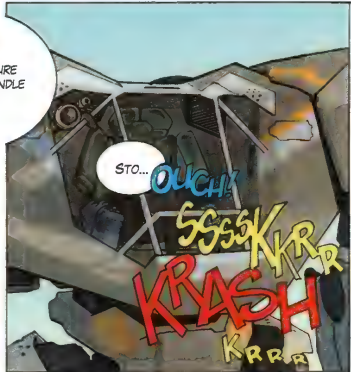
FUNNY.

YES.



COME ON, IT'S TIME TO
GO. LEAVE THE BIKE, I
DON'T PLAN TO STAY
ON THE ROAD.

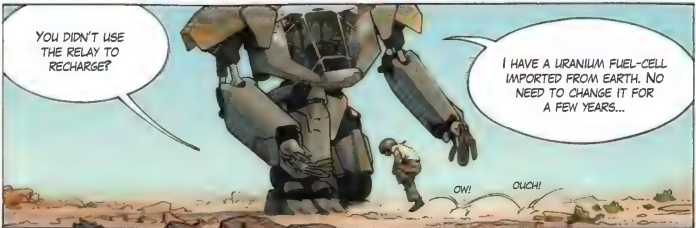
SO? I'M SURE
SHE CAN HANDLE
A FEW...



STO... OUCH!
SSSSKRR
KRASH
KRRR



I'M OK!
NO BROKEN
BONES!



YOU DIDN'T USE
THE RELAY TO
RECHARGE?

I HAVE A URANIUM FUEL-CELL
IMPORTED FROM EARTH. NO
NEED TO CHANGE IT FOR
A FEW YEARS...



MAYBE WE SHOULD DESTROY
IT THEN? SO THE OTHER
ROBOTS CAN'T USE IT?

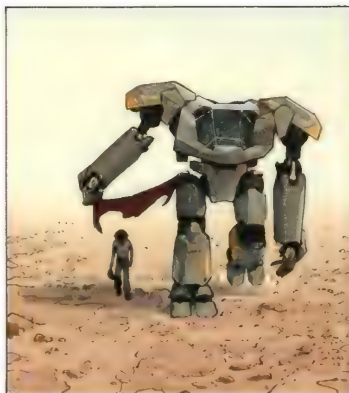
MAJOR STONE
RAISED A REAL LITTLE
COMMANDO!

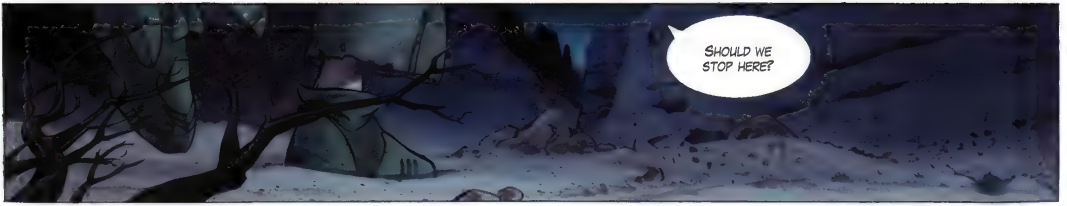
YOU KNOW, IAHVÉ WON'T
ALWAYS BE HERE. THE HUMAN
SURVIVORS WILL BE GLAD TO
HAVE THIS TYPE OF RELAY SO
AS NOT TO START FROM
SCRATCH...



IT'S BEST TO GIVE
SOME THOUGHT TO
THE FUTURE.

OFF WE
GO!



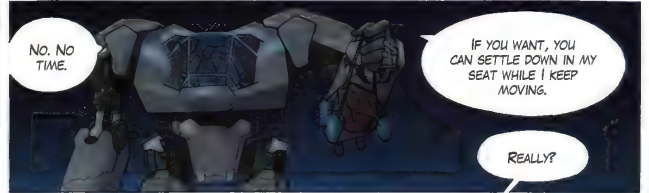


SHOULD WE
STOP HERE?



WHAT FOR?

TO SLEEP.
IT'S NIGHT, AND
I'M TIRED AND
STUFF.



NO. NO
TIME.

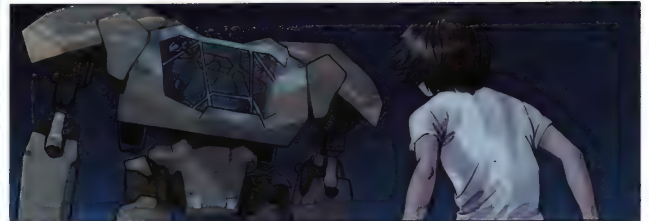
IF YOU WANT, YOU
CAN SETTLE DOWN IN MY
SEAT WHILE I KEEP
MOVING.

REALLY?



EARLIER, I COULDN'T
TOUCH YOUR CONTROLS,
BUT NOW THAT IT SUITS
YOU I GET STUCK IN
THE COCKPIT?

I'M NOT A ROBOT!
I DON'T SPEND MY LIFE WITH
MY EYES OPEN AND I CAN'T SLEEP
IN A THING THAT REEKS OF OIL,
SWINGS EVERY WHICH WAY, AND CAN
BE HEARD FROM THREE KILOMETERS
AWAY EVERY TIME IT LIFTS A FOOT!



SORRY, I
KNOW YOU CAN'T
UNDERSTAND, I'M
JUST TIRED...



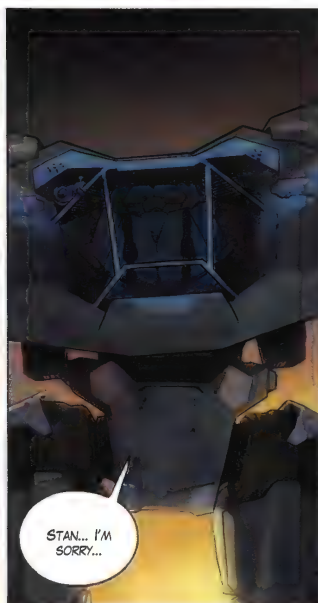
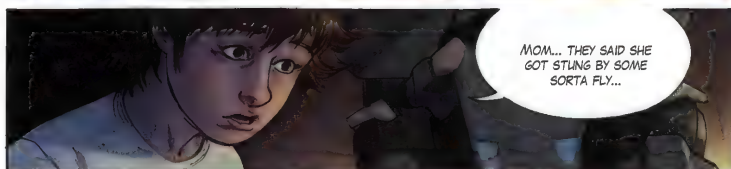
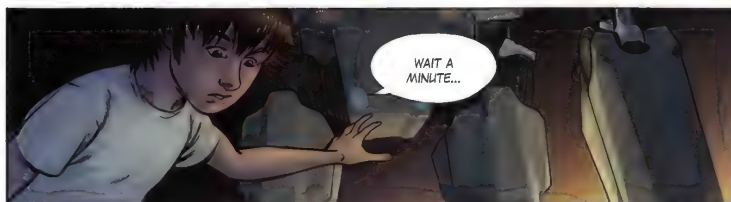
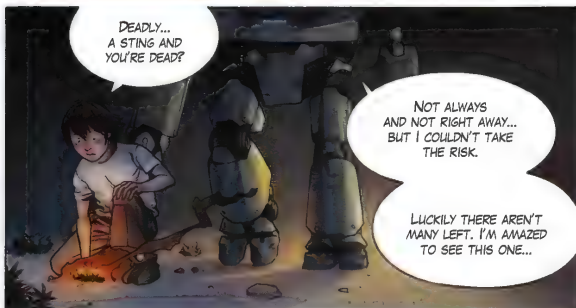
I UNDERSTAND
BETTER THAN
YOU THINK.

WELL, I'LL
HAVE TO MAKE AN
EFFORT TO WAIT.



YOU SHOULD LOOK
FOR MORE BRANCHES. THE
NIGHTS ARE COLD HERE...

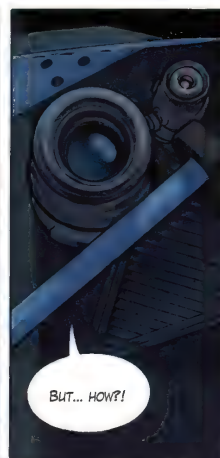
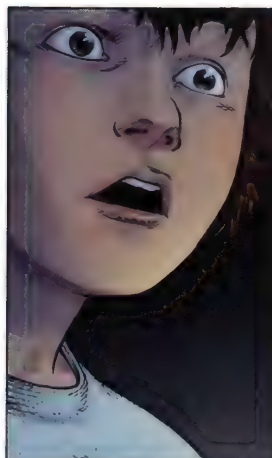






HEY... DO YOU
HEAR THAT?

HMM... MY
SENSORS DON'T
DETECT ANYTHING
SPECIAL. PROBABLY
THE WIND...

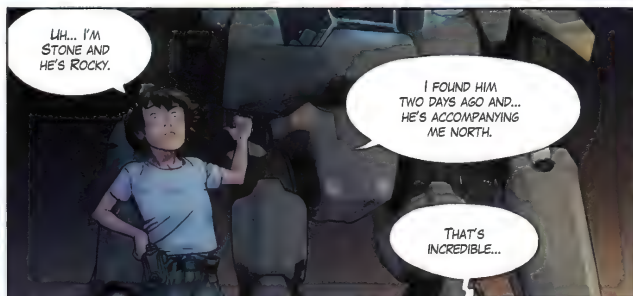


BUT... HOW?!



WE ALL HAVE OUR
SECRETS.

I'M SANDY.
AND YOU?



WH... I'M
STONE AND
HE'S ROCKY.

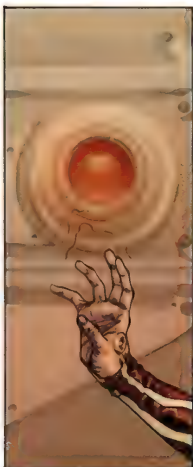
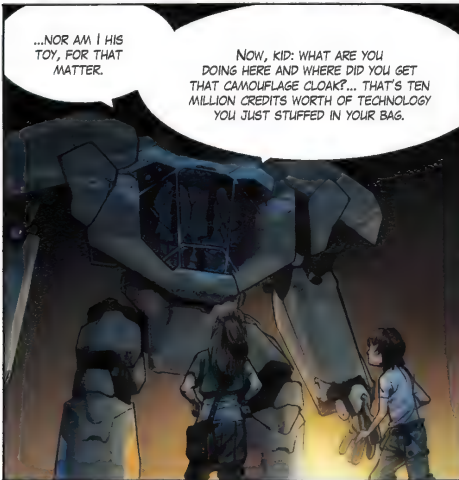
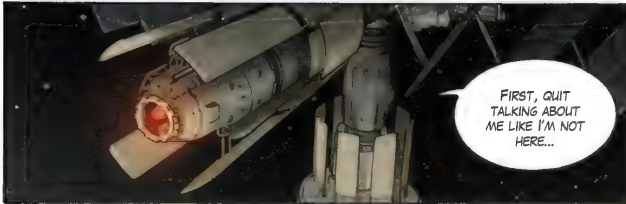
I FOUND HIM
TWO DAYS AGO AND...
HE'S ACCOMPANYING
ME NORTH.

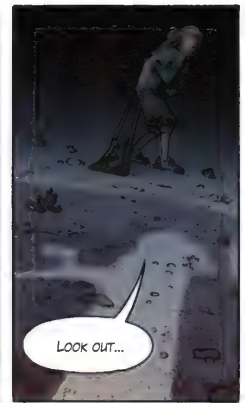
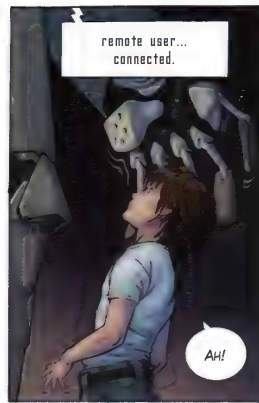
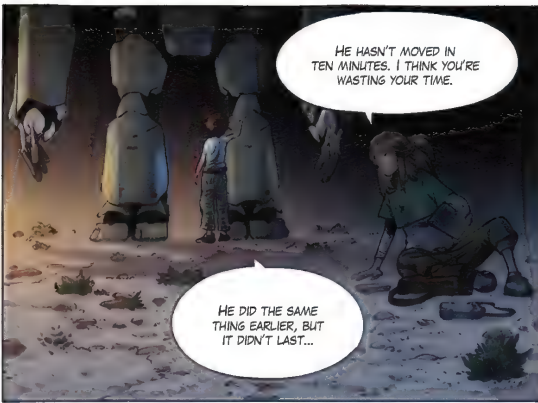
THAT'S
INCREDIBLE...

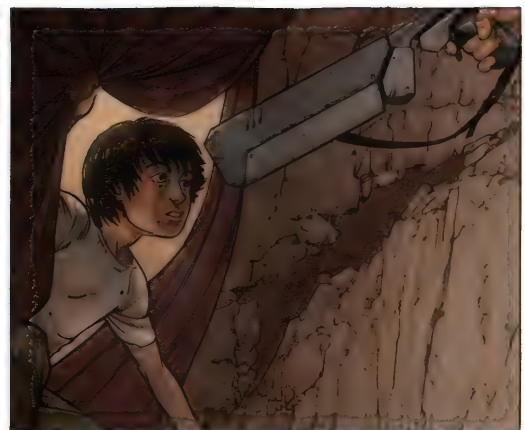
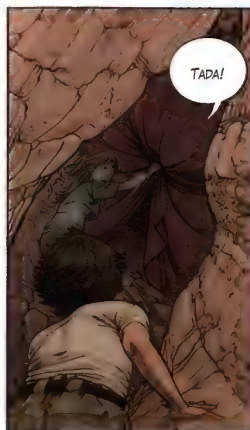
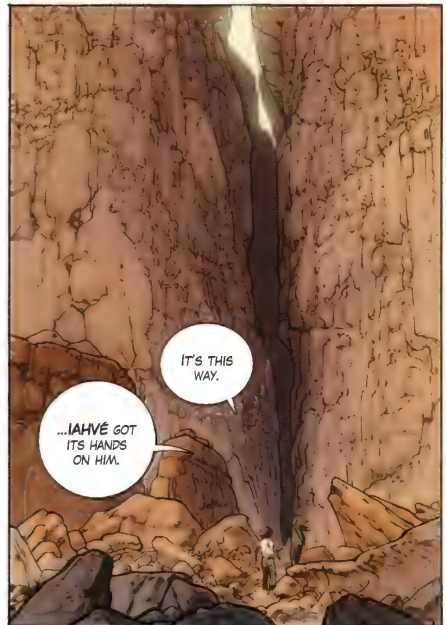
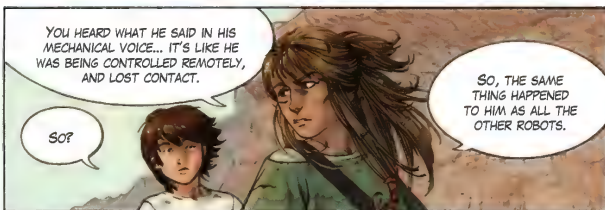
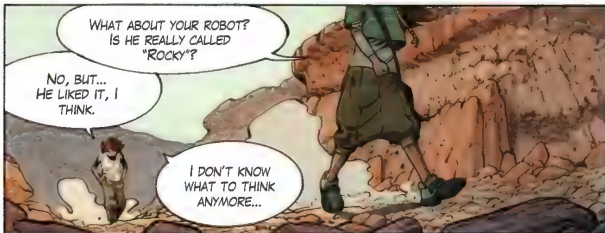


IT ISN'T AT ALL
HOSTILE.

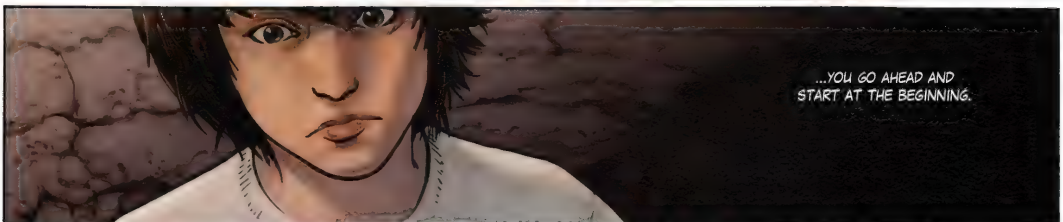
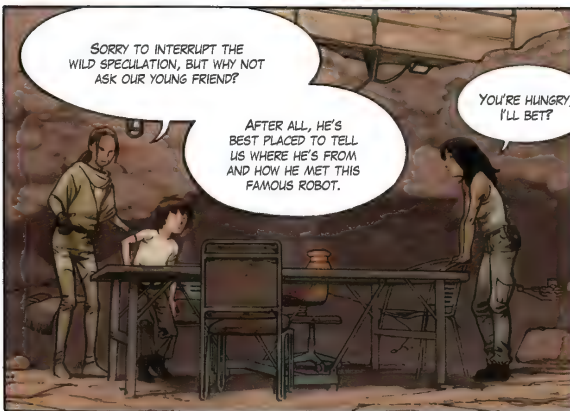
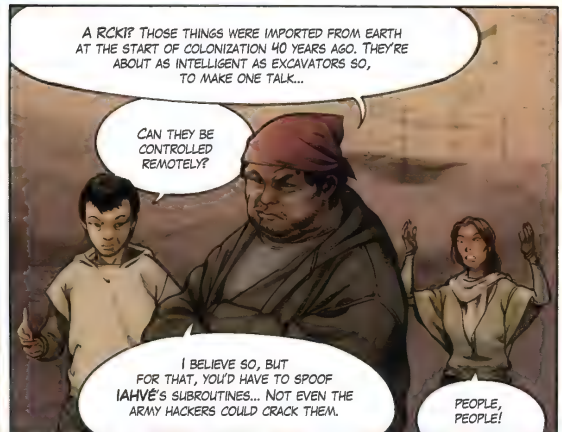
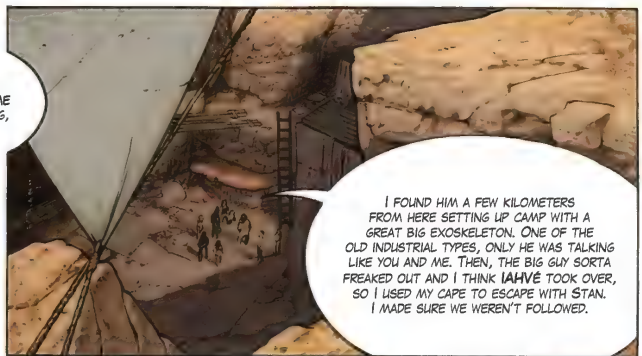
IS IT
YOURS?











2206...

MORONS!

INCOMPETENTS!

MURDERERS!

SIR, LIKE I SAID, YOUR WIFE MOST PROBABLY SUCCEMBED TO AN ALLERGIC REACTION. I'M SORRY THAT THE TREATMENT DIDN'T HAVE TIME TO TAKE EFFECT...

THAT SAID, WE'VE REQUESTED AN ANALYSIS OF THE INSECT'S STING. PERHAPS WE'LL LEARN MORE...

TO HELL WITH YOUR ANALYSIS! IT'S TOO LATE!

YOU HEAR ME? TOO LATE!

PLEASE, I UNDERSTAND YOUR PAIN, BUT TRY...

...TRY TO THINK OF YOUR SON.

A CALDORIAN HORSEFLY? SHE WASN'T THE ONLY ONE...

BUT IF WE KNEW THEY WERE DANGEROUS, WHY DIDN'T WE DO SOMETHING?

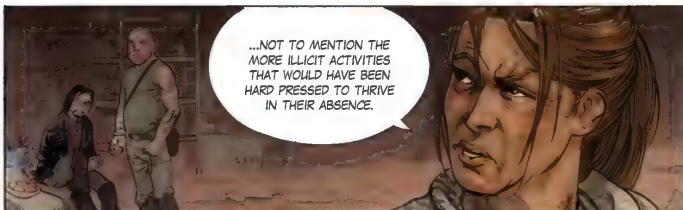
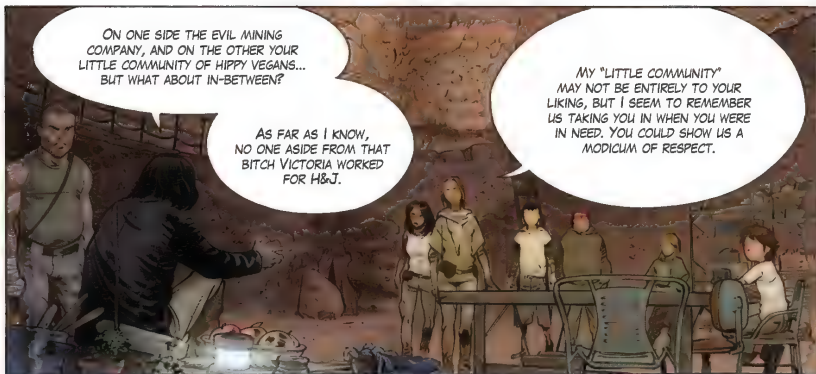
BECAUSE THEY WEREN'T DANGEROUS AT FIRST, THAT'S WHY.

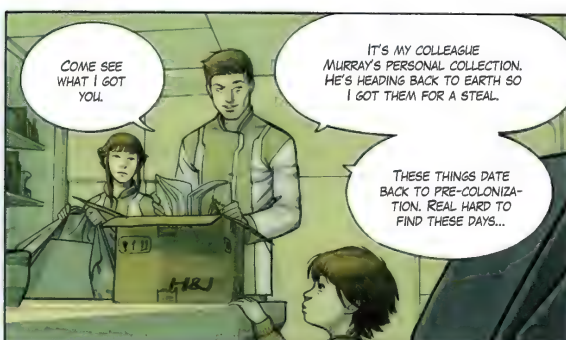
WHAT DO YOU MEAN?

WE THINK THE MINING OPERATION EXPOSED THEM TO MICRO-PARTICLES THAT TRIGGERED A MUTATION. BUT IT'S JUST A THEORY...

IT'S THE TRUTH AND YOU KNOW IT, HARUKI!

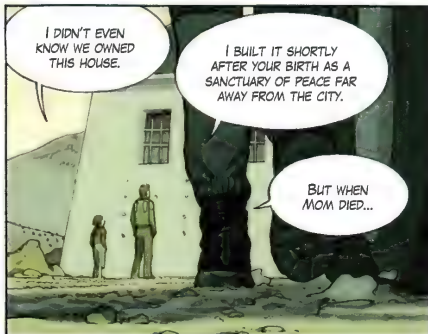
ONLY, THE MINING OPERATION IS WHAT BROUGHT NINETY-NINE PERCENT OF THE PEOPLE TO LIVE ON THIS CURSED ROCK. THEY WERE NEVER LIKELY TO ENTERTAIN OTHER IDEAS...







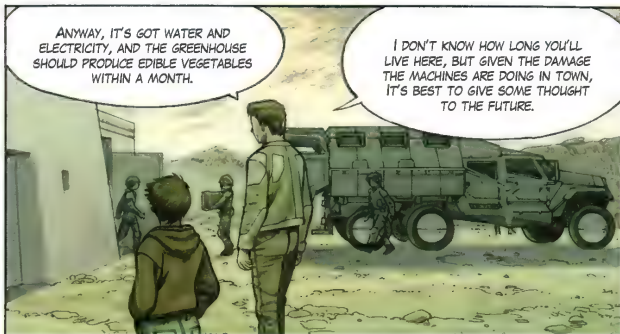
WE'RE
HERE, PROFESSOR
GELBSTEIN!



I DIDN'T EVEN
KNOW WE OWNED
THIS HOUSE.

I BUILT IT SHORTLY
AFTER YOUR BIRTH AS A
SANCTUARY OF PEACE FAR
AWAY FROM THE CITY.

BUT WHEN
MOM DIED...



ANYWAY, IT'S GOT WATER AND
ELECTRICITY, AND THE GREENHOUSE
SHOULD PRODUCE EDIBLE VEGETABLES
WITHIN A MONTH.

I DON'T KNOW HOW LONG YOU'LL
LIVE HERE, BUT GIVEN THE DAMAGE
THE MACHINES ARE DOING IN TOWN,
IT'S BEST TO GIVE SOME THOUGHT
TO THE FUTURE.



CAN'T I STAY
WITH YOU?



STAN, DO I NEED TO
KEEP REPEATING IT? I
WAS CON-SCRIPT-ED!

WE'RE LUCKY ALREADY THAT THE
ARMY IS LEAVING TWO SOLDIERS HERE
TO PROTECT YOU... I THINK WE CAN
BEAT THE A.I., BUT WHERE I'M GOING
I CAN'T HAVE YOU UNDERFOOT!



KIDS, HUH?



HEY, YOU'RE
STANLEY?



STAN, YEAH.

YOU'RE PERRY?

YEAH, YOUR
NEW NANNY.

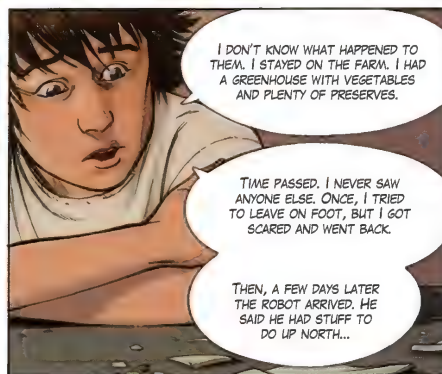
WELL, WITH CORPO-
RAL HENDRICKS, BUT
I DON'T THINK HE'S
A FAN OF KIDS.



ANYHOW,
YOU CAN CALL
ME ALEX.



CRASH!



IN THE MEANTIME, I THINK
WE SHOULD INTRODUCE OURSELVES.

MY NAME IS ANNA SHERMAN
BUT, FOR REASONS THAT ESCAPE ME,
EVERYONE CALLS ME MS. ANNA. I WORKED
ON THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE GREENLAND
AGRICULTURAL COMPLEX A FEW KILOMETERS
FROM HERE. EVEN TODAY A GOOD PART
OF OUR FOOD COMES FROM THERE.



SHERIFF AND I
WENT LOOKING FOR WORK AT
GREENLAND WHEN THINGS WENT
TITS UP IN NEO-TOLEDO. WE KNOW
THE DESERT. WE'RE THE ONES
WHO FOUND THIS SHELTER.



THESE DAYS WE HANDLE
SECURITY. IAHVE HAS ROBOTS OUT
PATROLLING, BUT WE HAVE RECOLLESS
GUNS. IF THEY COME, WE'VE GOT
SOMETHING FOR THEM.



LUCKILY, THEY HAVEN'T COME.

I'M WAGNER. I WORKED AT REST STOP
21 ON THE ROAD TO THE CITY. WHEN
THE OTHERS DECIDED TO HIDE IN THE
HILLS, I FOLLOWED SUIT.



THIS HEAT IS
KILLING ME.

MY NAME IS HARUKI MORI. THIS IS
HELENA AND OUR DAUGHTER AYAKA. I
WAS A DOCTOR IN NEO-TOLEDO.

WE MANAGED TO ESCAPE JUST
IN THE NICK OF TIME. NOT
MANY WERE AS LUCKY...



THEY FORGOT TO MENTION THAT
I'M IN CHARGE OF PROVISIONS. I'LL
SHOW YOU, IF YOU WANT.

WE ALL HAVE OUR LITTLE
SPECIALTIES, YOU SEE. WHAT
ARE YOU GOOD AT?



UH... I CAN
WELD...

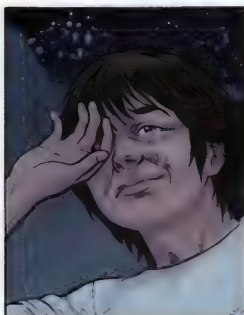
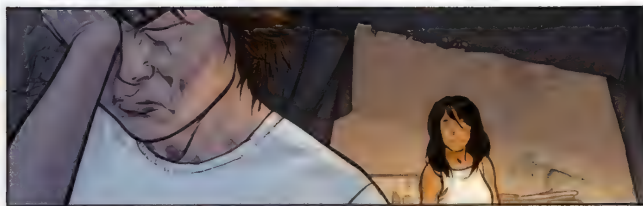
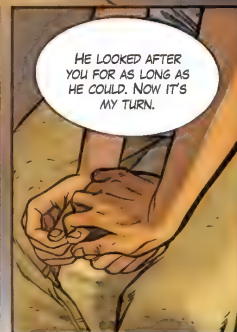
...AND SCULPT ROCKS.

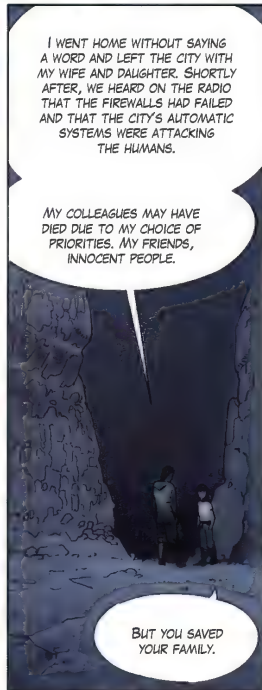
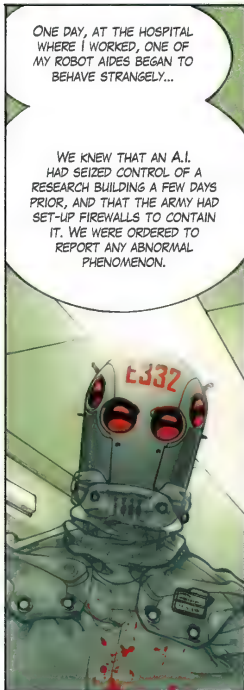
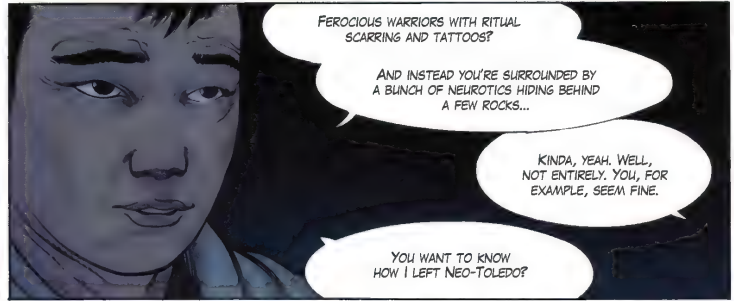
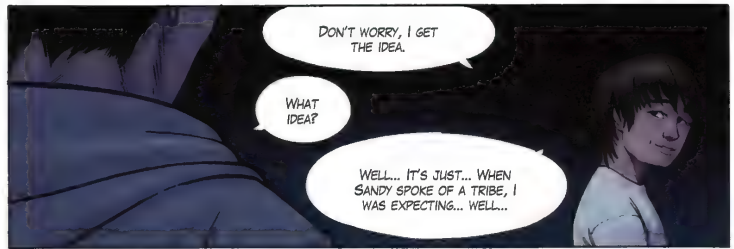


ROCKS?
COME, TELL
ME.

THE REST OF
YOU, GIVE HIM SOME
AIR. I'LL GET HIM
SETTLED.







S-STAN...?

subject... not
located.

WHATT?!

I repeat, subject...
not located.

SHIT! IT'S YOUR FAULT,
YOU HEAR ME? IF HE
GOT HURT...

AND THE RCKI?
ALSO LOST?

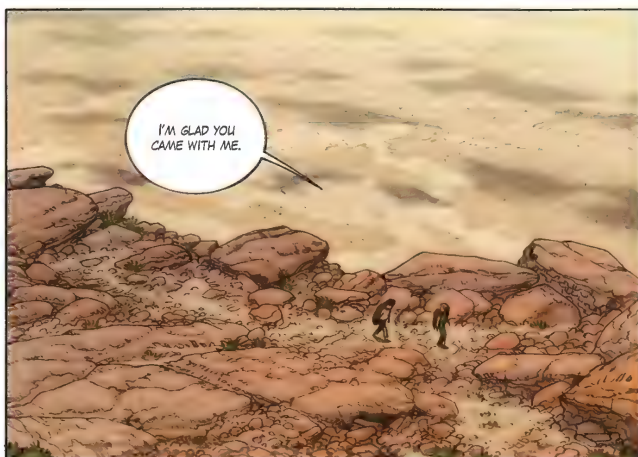
search in
progress...

subject... located.

connecting...

010010011?!


OK, NOW, I
DON'T RELEASE YOU
EVER AGAIN.



I'M GLAD YOU
CAME WITH ME.



YOU SURE WE
SHOULDN'T PUT
ON THE CAPE?

LATER, IT'LL JUST
SLOW US DOWN, AND I'VE
NEVER SEEN A ROBOT
AROUND HERE.



YOU COME
THIS WAY OFTEN?

YEAH.

TO GET SUPPLIES?

RIGHT.

WHY YOU
AND NOT THE
OTHERS?



'CAUSE THEY'RE
TOO SCARED.

AND 'CAUSE
IT'S MY
CAPE.



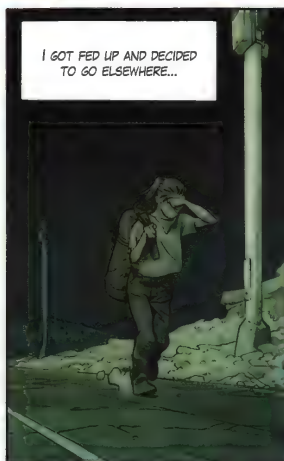
YOU DON'T HAVE...
PARENTS? BROTHERS
OR SISTERS?

MY FOLKS DIED IN A CAR
CRASH WHEN I WAS SMALL. I
WAS PLACED IN A HOME.

THEN, WHEN I WAS TWELVE, I WAS
OFFERED AN APPRENTICESHIP IN THE
COUNTRY'SIDE AT A PLACE CALLED
GREENLAND. I SAID YES.



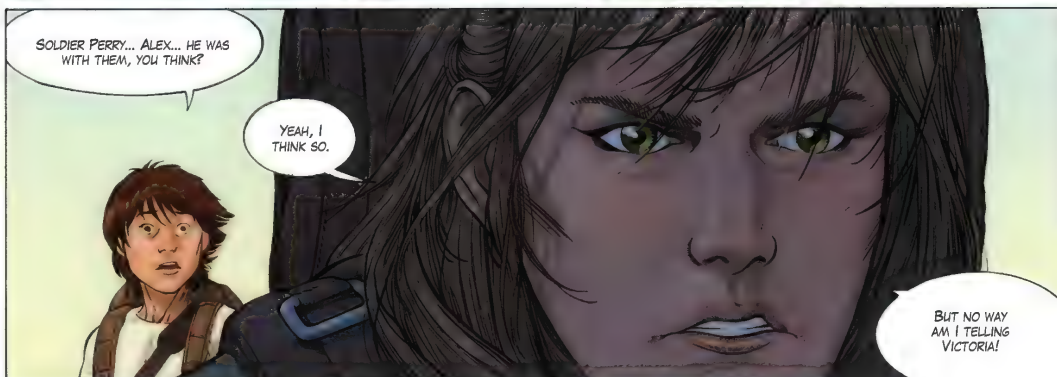
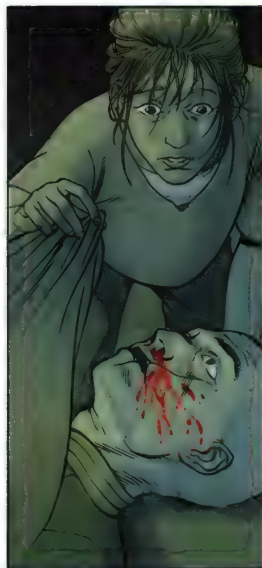
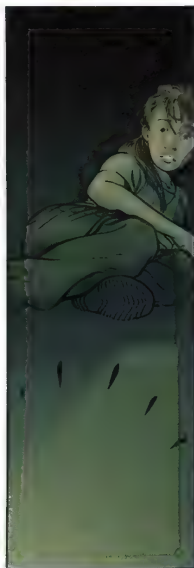
ONE DAY, WE HEARD THAT WEIRD THINGS WERE HAPPENING IN THE
CITY. AND THEN, NO NEWS AT ALL. PEOPLE STARTED FREAKING OUT
AND ANOTHER GIRL ATTACKED ME FOR NO REASON...

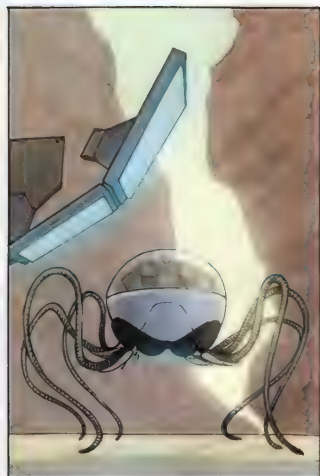
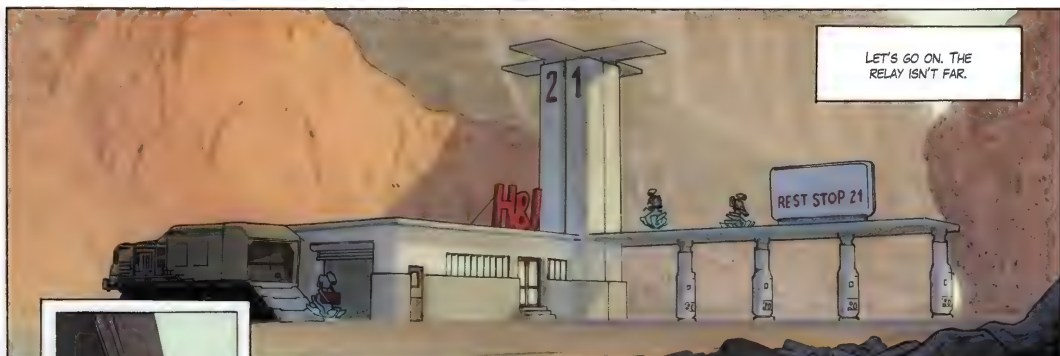
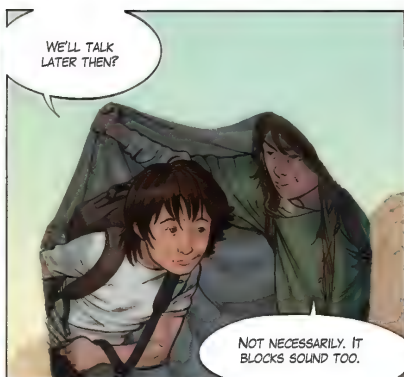


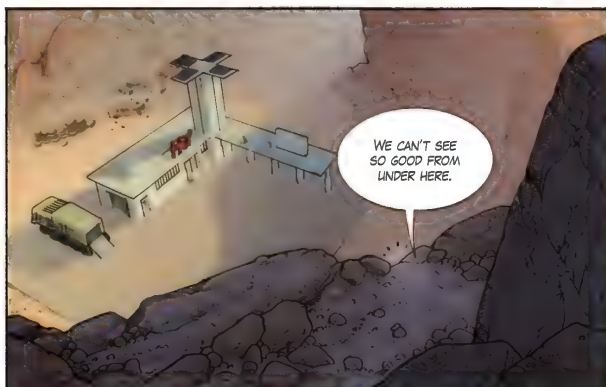
I GOT FED UP AND DECIDED
TO GO ELSEWHERE...



THEN...







WE CAN'T SEE
SO GOOD FROM
UNDER HERE.



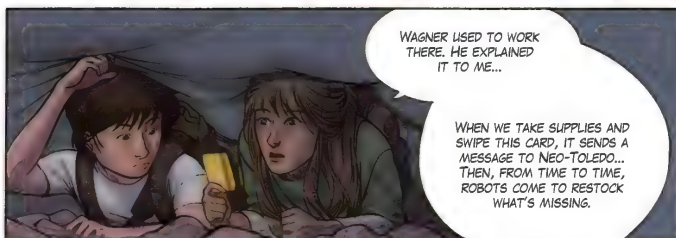
MAYBE, BUT THEY CAN'T
SEE US AT ALL.

HEY! THAT'S
WHERE WE'RE
GOING! IT'S FULL
OF ROBOTS!



YOU'RE RIGHT. THEY
MUST BE RESTOCKING.

HUH?



WAGNER USED TO WORK
THERE. HE EXPLAINED
IT TO ME...

WHEN WE TAKE SUPPLIES AND
SWIPE THIS CARD, IT SENDS A
MESSAGE TO NEO-TOLEDO...
THEN, FROM TIME TO TIME,
ROBOTS COME TO RESTOCK
WHAT'S MISSING.



BUT... THEY DIDN'T
STOP WHEN IAHVÉ
TOOK CONTROL?

NOPE.

WE'VE TALKED ABOUT THIS
A LOT, THE OTHERS AND I...
IS IT A TRAP? OR IS IT JUST
SOMETHING THE CITY'S MACHINES
DO WITHOUT THINKING, BECAUSE
THAT'S WHAT THEY'RE
PROGRAMMED FOR?



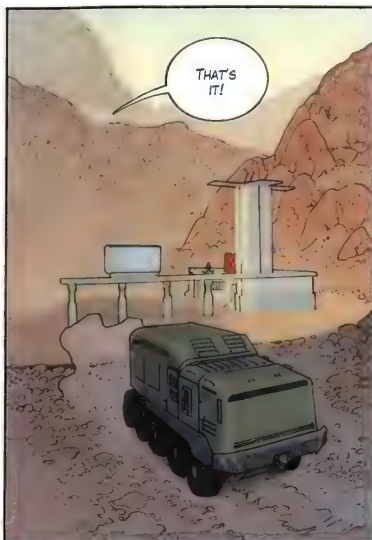
THE ONLY THING THAT'S CHANGED IS THE
ROBO-GUARDS ON THE ROOF. THEY'VE BEEN
THERE FOR A FEW MONTHS, BUT THANKS
TO THE CAPE THEY'RE NO PROBLEM.



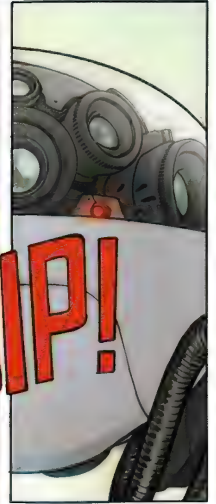
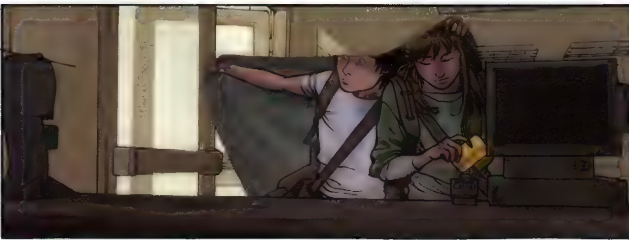
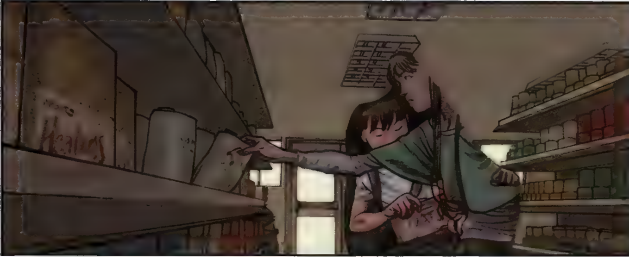
ROCKY, UH... THE ROCKI...
HE WAS SMART, NOT
LIKE THEM.

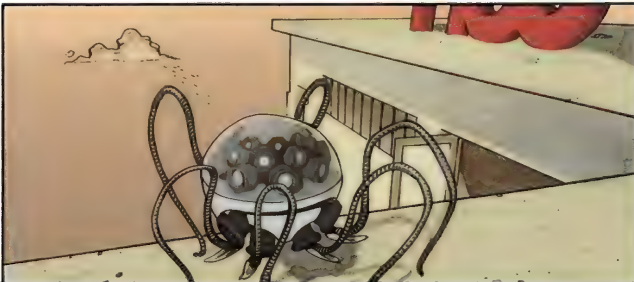
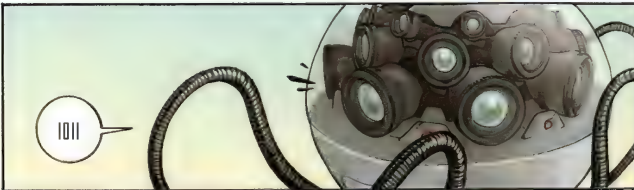
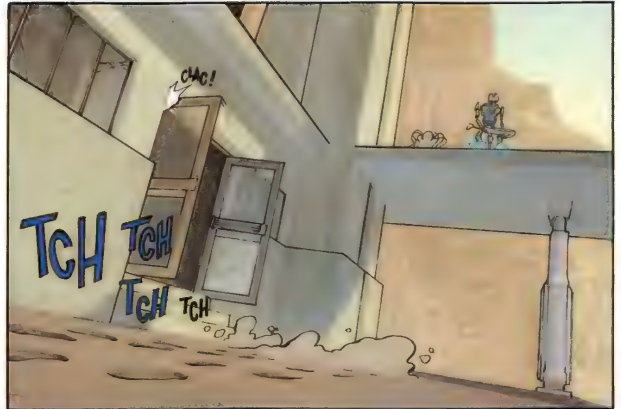
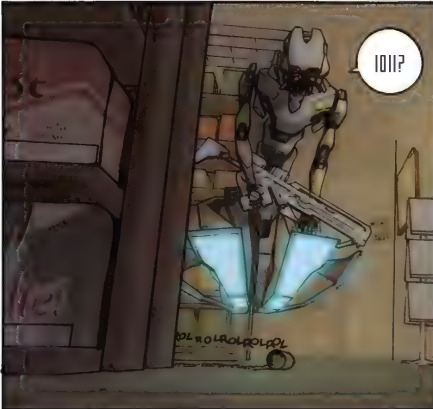
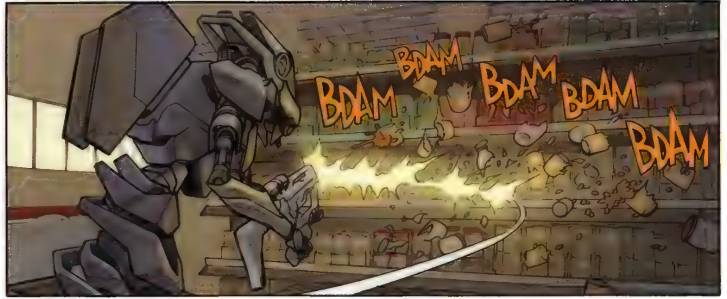
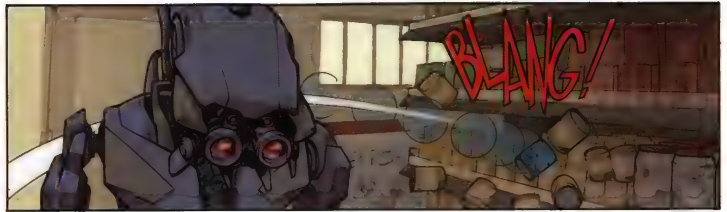
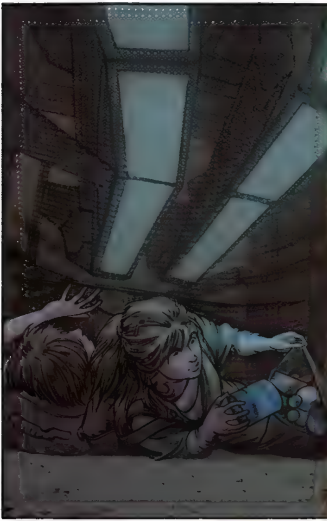
YEAH, BUT THAT DIDN'T STOP
IAHVÉ FROM TAKING HIM,
JUST LIKE THEM.

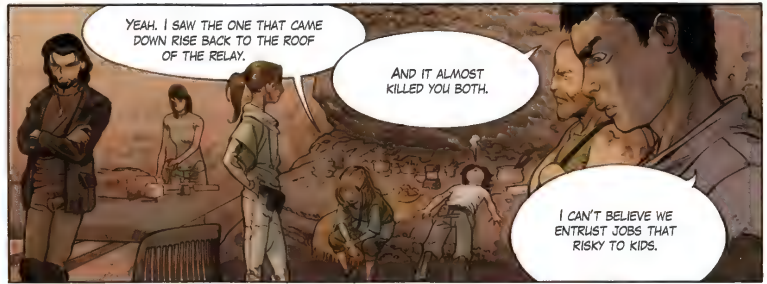
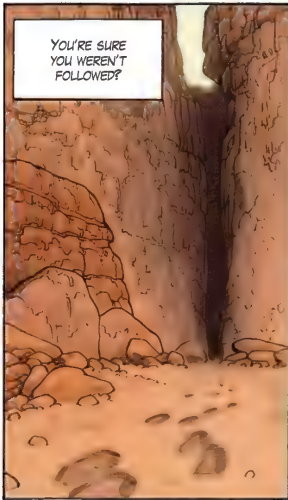
ALL RIGHT, WHEN THE
TRUCK MOVES WE GO.



THAT'S
IT!









subjects, remain in proximity to the containment units! resistance will be punished by death!



AYAKA!



It's OK, MY BABY GIRL...



MAMA'S HERE.



HELENA!

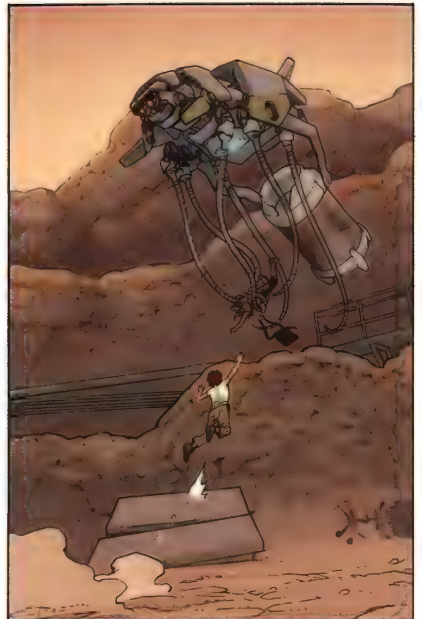
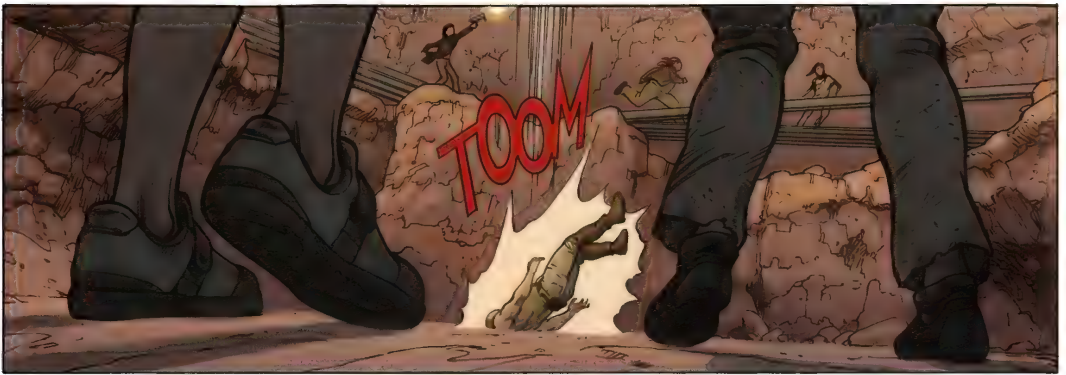
DOC, NO!

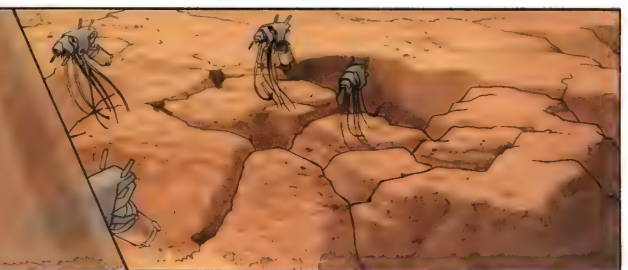
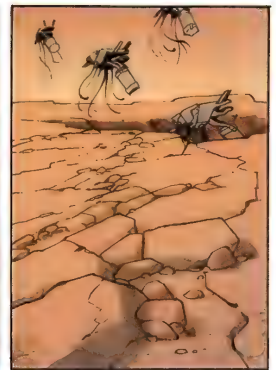
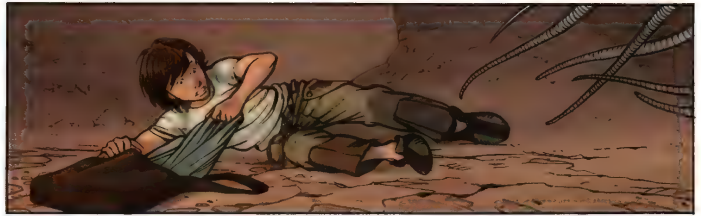


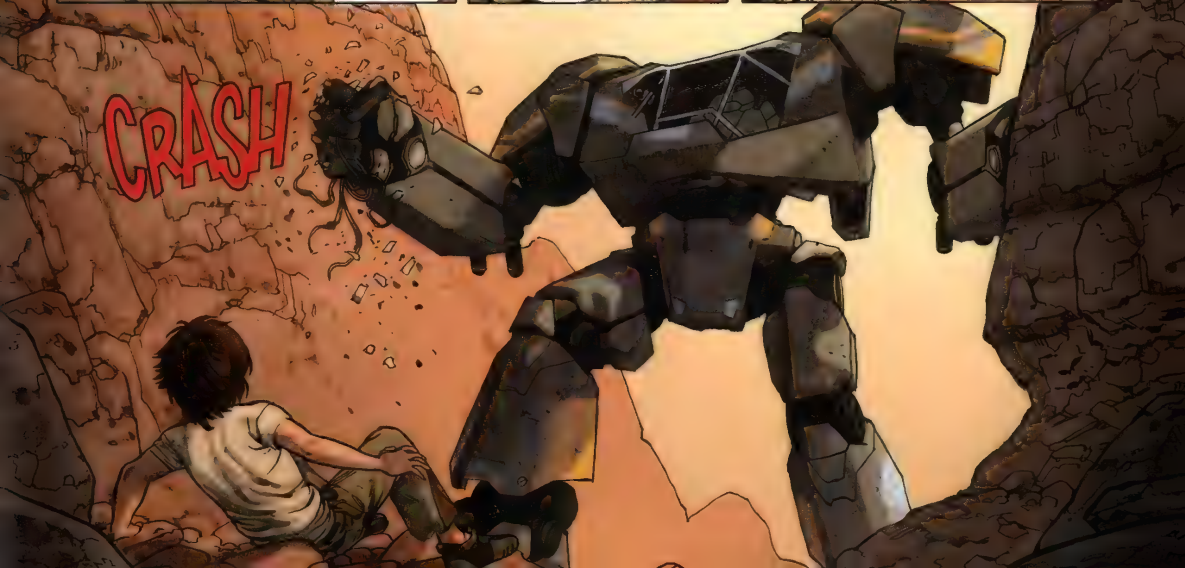
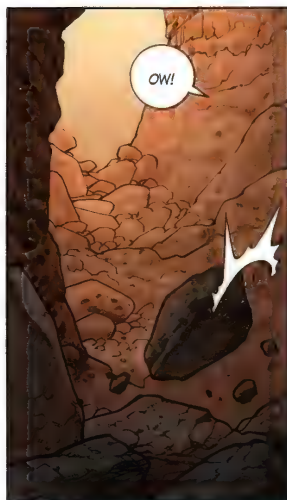
GET OUTTA HERE!

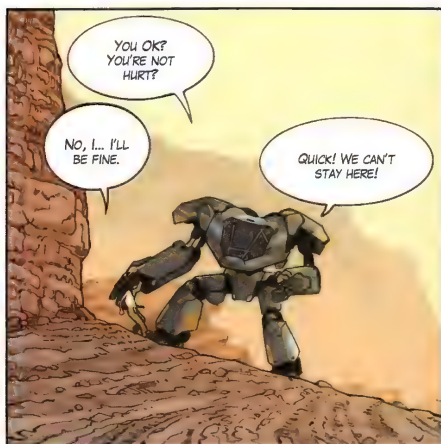
AYAKA...







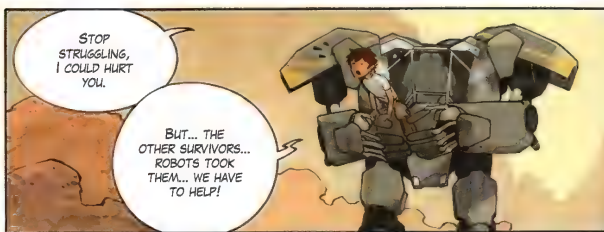




YOU OK?
YOU'RE NOT
HURT?

NO, I... I'LL
BE FINE.

QUICK! WE CAN'T
STAY HERE!



STOP
STRUGGLING,
I COULD HURT
YOU.

BUT... THE
OTHER SURVIVORS...
ROBOTS TOOK
THEM... WE HAVE
TO HELP!



STAN, IT'S MIRACLE ENOUGH
THAT I FOUND YOU. I CAN'T DO
ANYTHING FOR THEM.

LET ME GO.



I...

LET ME GO!



UNH!



STAN...



NO, DAMMIT! LEAVE
ME ALONE! YOU CAN'T KEEP
CARRYING ME AROUND
WITH... WITHOUT...

WHAT IF I REFUSE?
WHAT YOU GONNA DO,
TAKE ANOTHER SWING
AT ME?

WHY SHOULD I
TRUST YOU, HUH?
WHY?



BECAUSE...

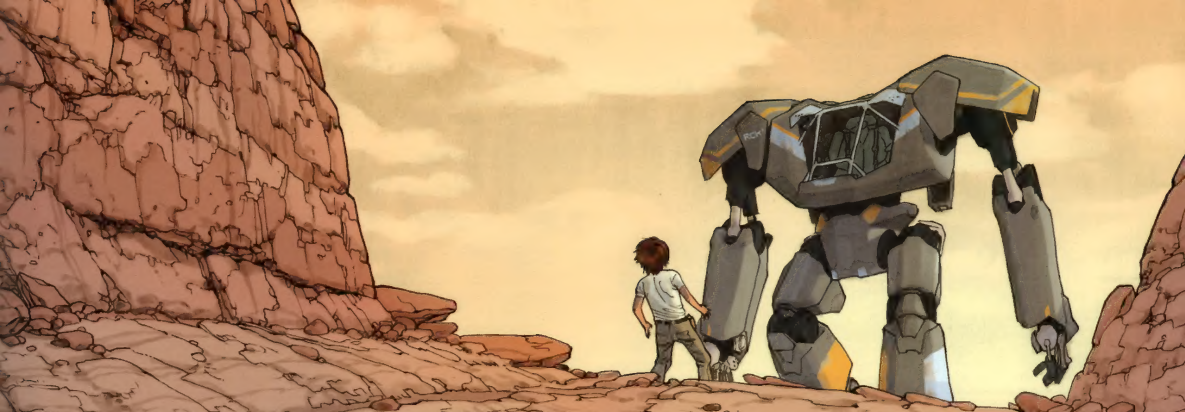
IT'S ME,
STAN...



IT'S ME...



...YOUR
FATHER.



DAD?

HOW...?



SINCE THE START OF THE WAR, IAHVÉ HAS BRUSHED OUR FIREWALLS ASIDE AND TAKEN CONTROL OF OUR BEST MILITARY EQUIPMENT...

...WE HAD TO IMPROVISE.



I VOLUNTEERED TO GO UP TO A TELECOMS SATELLITE. WE PLANNED TO EQUIP IT WITH AN ELECTROMAGNETIC PULSE CANNON CAPABLE OF NEUTRALIZING IAHVÉ FROM SPACE.

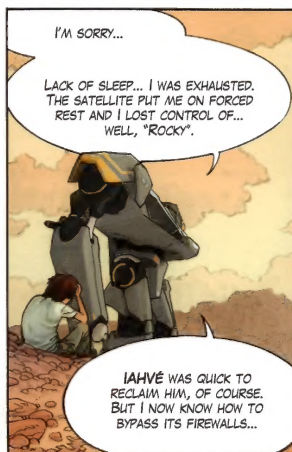
BUT OUR FINAL DEFENSES FELL TOO EARLY...

...AND THE ROCKET WITH THE CANNON NEVER TOOK OFF.



AFTER A FEW MONTHS I MANAGED TO HACK THIS OLD RCK1 FROM THE SATELLITE.

AND THE OTHER NIGHT? WHEN YOU ATTACKED ME AND SANDY?



I'M SORRY...

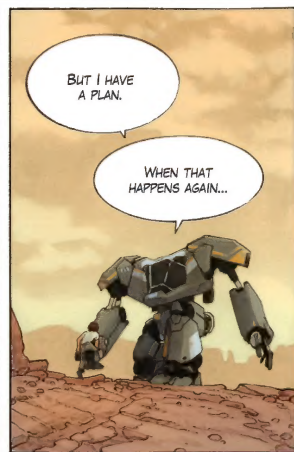
LACK OF SLEEP... I WAS EXHAUSTED. THE SATELLITE PUT ME ON FORCED REST AND I LOST CONTROL OF... WELL, "ROCKY".

IAHVÉ WAS QUICK TO RECLAIM HIM, OF COURSE. BUT I NOW KNOW HOW TO BYPASS ITS FIREWALLS...



UNTIL THE NEXT TIME YOU'RE TIRED.

RIGHT.



BUT I HAVE A PLAN.

WHEN THAT HAPPENS AGAIN...



...MY SON WILL TAKE CONTROL.



SO, HOW
DID YOU FIND
ME?

BY INTERCEPTING EXCHANGES
FROM THE ROBOTS SENT TO
CAPTURE YOU. I CAN HARDLY
BELIEVE YOU MADE IT.



ENOUGH TALK,
LET'S ROLL!

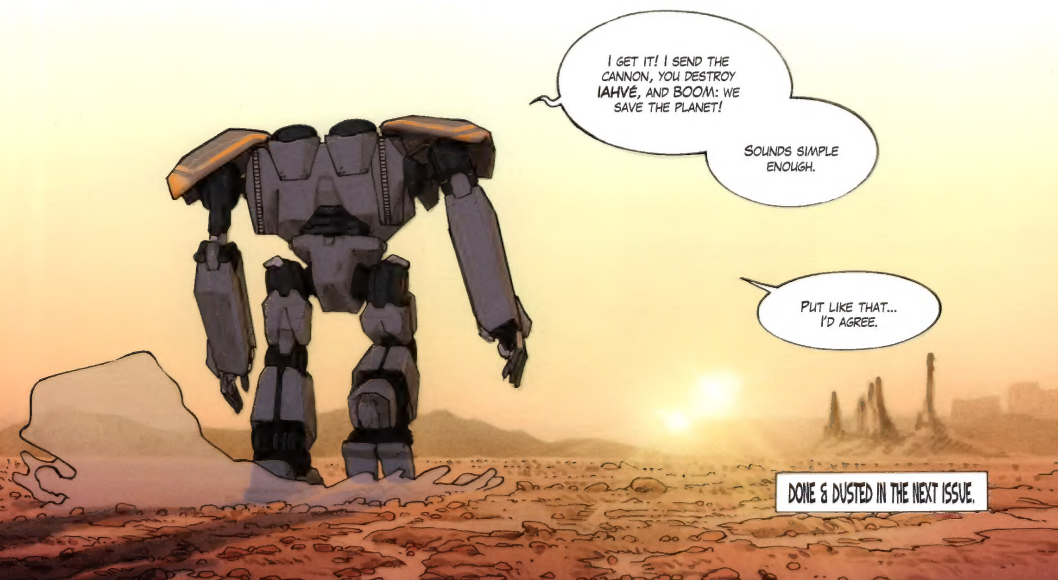
PENG!
PENG!

YOU KNOW
WHERE WE'RE
GOING?



WELL... NORTH. TO
NEO-TOLEDO AND
IAHVÉ, RIGHT?

ALMOST. I THINK THE ROCKET THAT
WAS MEANT TO CARRY THE EMPC IS
STILL ON ITS LAUNCH PAD. IF WE CAN
MAKE IT TAKE-OFF...



I GET IT! I SEND THE
CANNON, YOU DESTROY
IAHVÉ, AND BOOM: WE
SAVE THE PLANET!

SOUNDS SIMPLE
ENOUGH.

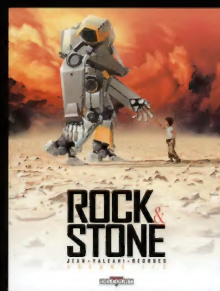
PUT LIKE THAT...
I'D AGREE.

DONE & DUSTED IN THE NEXT ISSUE.

"I THOUGHT ALL THE ROBOTS WANTED TO KILL HUMANS..."
"ALL EXCEPT ME THEN. YOU COULD SAY I'M... THE EXCEPTION THAT PROVES THE RULE."



Caldoria. A planet of rock and sand light-years from Earth where an Artificial Intelligence has taken control of the machines and set about exterminating the humans. A year later, Stan, a young survivor, encounters a friendly robot with mysterious intentions... Will they, together, reverse the course of history?



Part 2 coming soon...

